

A photograph of the school grounds in Thrupp, showing a paved playground area with wooden fencing, a large tree, and a view of the village and hills in the background.

Thrupp School Biodiversity Inventory Spring

For the Spring inventory years 3 and 4 became citizen scientists on Friday 15th March and helped count some of the amazing species that live on the school playgrounds!

Lichens

Year 4s learnt about how lichens can be excellent bioindicators of clean air. We discussed the symbiotic relationship of the fungus providing the structure and the algae performing photosynthesis. Year 4 searched and counted lichen from the 3 main structural groups.

	Castle	Top	Bottom
Crustose	10	10	16
Foliose	8	9	9
Fruticose	7	6	7

Trees/shrubs/plants

In the Autumn/Winter Biodiversity Inventory we focussed on trees, this one the children were able to find more plants and shrubs.

Bottom Playground:

Honeysuckle, Buddleia, Kenilworth Ivy, Ash, Dogwood, Rose, Common Box

Top Playground:

Bramble, Honeysuckle, Hawthorn, Common Box, Yew, Ash, Hazel, Daffodils, Maple, Ivy, Grass, Kenilworth Ivy, Buddleia, Scots Pine

Castle:

Daffodils, Dandelion, Daisy, Dogwood, American Sweetgum, Yew, Willow, Buddleia, Rose, Grass, Herb Roberts, Ivy, Vetch, Honeysuckle, Ragwort, Whitebeam, Thistle

Birds

10 minutes sitting quietly and seeing what birds they could spot. We discussed why there were so few birds at this time of year.

22 pigeons

5 crows

6 robins

3 magpie

1 swallow

1 swift

1 buzzard

5 sparrow

11 blackbird

6 bluetit

1 red kite

1 woodpecker

Minibeasts

Year 3 were amazing junior entomologists! We spent time looking around the caste area and top playground for minibeasts. It was tricky to find any as we discussed how lots of them were hiding or hibernating or on holiday for the winter. When we got back to classroom we counted up what we had seen.

Spider	45
Woodlouse	50
Ants	13
Earthworm	5
Slug	12
Snail	8
Fly	25
Ladybird	9
Bee	5
Grasshopper	3
Sheild Bug	1
Froghopper	2
Millipede	2
Beetle	3

Actions for Eco council:

From this report the eco council could....

- Think of ways to welcome more wildlife in winter.
- Ways to improve inventory for summer?
- Get the school ready for summer?